United Nations S/2000/928

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 October 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 2 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of October 2000 and on behalf of the States members of the League of Arab States, I have the honour to request that the Security Council be convened forthwith in order to discuss the Israeli aggression on the Haram Al-Sharif in occupied Holy Jerusalem and the wave of Israeli aggression against Palestinian civilians in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Iraq
Chairman of the Arab Group

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United Nations S/2000/929

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 October 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 2 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that the members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Caucus met this morning to hear a briefing by the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations on the latest incidents in Occupied East Jerusalem following a visit of the leader of the Likud Party, Mr. Ariel Sharon, to Al-Haram Al-Sharif.

In view of the gravity of the situation, I have been entrusted by members of the NAM Caucus to request you to convene an urgent meeting of the Security Council to discuss the subject.

(Signed) **Hasmy** Agam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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United Nations A/55/437-S/2000/930

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
2 October 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 36, 40, 41 and 85

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Bethlehem 2000

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Identical letters dated 2 October 2000 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

In follow-up to my letter dated 29 September 2000, I regret to inform you that Israel, the occupying Power, has continued its campaign against the Palestinian people, massacring and injuring numerous Palestinian civilians and inflicting vast destruction of property. As of yesterday, 1 October 2000 and since the infamous visit to Al-Haram Al-Sharif by Mr. Ariel Sharon, Israeli security forces have killed 28 Palestinians, most of whom were civilians and a number of them children under 16 years of age (names of martyrs are annexed to this letter). During this period, the Israeli security forces have also injured at least 800 Palestinians, many of whom are in serious condition.

In this campaign, the Israeli security forces have used a plethora of lethal power. Israel has deployed snipers and used high-velocity ammunition as well as anti-tank missiles, rockets, grenades and even helicopter gunships. Israeli tanks have moved towards several Palestinian cities and some posts manned by Palestinian police. In specific cases on 1 October 2000 and to a lesser extent on 30 September 2000, some Palestinian police, appalled with the severity of Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians, used their individual guns in a shooting exchange with Israeli forces. As a result, there have been several deaths among the personnel of the Palestinian police as well.

Since Thursday, 28 September 2000, Israel, the occupying Power, has committed an aggression against Al-Haram Al-Sharif, the third holiest site of Islam, and used excessive lethal force, mainly against Palestinian civilians protesting Israeli aggression and other oppressive policies. In many instances, the soldiers of

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the occupying Power have committed wilful killings, including the highly publicized killing of a 12-year-old boy, Mohammed Jamal Al-Durra, as well as wilfully causing great suffering and serious injury to many other Palestinians.

All of the above-mentioned actions constitute grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, which is applicable to all the territories occupied by Israel since 1967. In this regard, we believe that several Israeli soldiers have committed war crimes and must be held accountable.

We believe that the international community, specifically the Security Council, has a clear responsibility with regard to putting an end to the illegal actions being taken by Israel, the occupying Power, and for ensuring respect for the Fourth Geneva Convention as well as ensuring the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians. The intervention of the Security Council is also needed so that it might salvage the Middle East peace process and if possible resuscitate the efforts to reach a peaceful settlement between the parties. What is urgently needed at this time is ensuring the withdrawal of Israeli security forces from Al-Haram Al-Sharif and from the vicinity of Palestinian cities and towns, in addition to investigating the events of the last few days.

In the light of the above, we call for action by the international community, specifically for an immediate meeting of the Security Council to consider the situation in the Occupied East Jerusalem as well as the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to take the necessary measures in this regard in fulfilment of the Security Council's primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter distributed as an official document of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36, 40, 41 and 85, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador, Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 2 October 2000 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by Israeli security forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, Friday, 29 September 2000 to Sunday, 1 October 2000

Friday, 29 September

1. Bilal Afana
2. Mohammed Hussein Farah
3. Yehia Faraj (17 years old)
4. Ousama Jedah
5. Haitham Owaida

Saturday, 30 September

1. Khalid Adli Al-Bazian (16 years old)
2. Nizzar Mahmoud Eidah (16 years old)
3. Zakharia Al-Kilanni
4. Mohammed Tawfik Al-Kalaq
5. Amjad Outhman Mesaeid
6. Mahmoud Anbara
7. Imad Esha
8. Mohammed Abdel Razik
9. Bassam Al-Balbeesi
10. Mohammed Jamal Al-Durra (12 years old)
11. Nabil Mohammed Al-Atla
12. Zeidan Al-Shamali
13. Maher Rajab Ubeid

Sunday, 1 October

1. Jihad Mahmoud Al-Alol (shot on Friday, 29 September)
2. Mohammad Ahmed Al-Hamas
3. Eyad Ahmad Al-Kashashi
4. Mustaffa Hilmi Ramadan
5. Hussam Naiem Bakheet
6. Samer Sameer Tabajah (10 years old)
7. Imad Abdelrahman Al-Anati
8. Salah Al-Fekhi
9. Mohammed Nabil Hamada
10. Hamad Jabr Radi (10 years old)

United Nations A/55/438–S/2000/931

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
2 October 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 114 (a) and (d)
Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 2 October 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit a statement issued on 2 October 2000 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea, on behalf of the National Assembly, regarding Ethiopia's human rights violations (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 114 (a) and (d), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Tesfa Alem **Seyoum**
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission
of Eritrea to the United Nations

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Annex to the Letter dated 2 October 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the National Assembly of Eritrea on Ethiopia's human rights violations

The National Assembly:

Recalling the practice of ethnic hatred that the Ethiopian regime has been doggedly pursuing in the last two and a half years as a matter of official, publicly declared, policy to impart an ugly dimension to the conflict;

Recalling further that the Ethiopian Government has unilaterally revoked the bilateral agreements and provisions that existed between the two countries allowing each other's citizens to enjoy particular rights and privileges;

Mindful of the excessive financial and physical damages, as well as emotional and psychological trauma, that these policies have had on Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin who have been deported en masse from Ethiopia purely on the basis of their ethnicity and through the confiscation of their life-long earnings and the cruel separation of families; often by stripping them of their citizenship retroactively in violation of international conventions that Ethiopia itself has signed;

Strongly deploring the continued detention and deaths in detention in Dediesa and other concentration camps of innocent Eritrean civilians who have been forced to languish in these prisons for more than two years now without due process of law;

Deeply concerned by the plight of over 18,000 underage Eritreans who have been left behind in Ethiopia as a result of a deliberate policy of separation of families;

Condemning further the illegal policy that the Tigre People's Liberation Front (TPLF) regime continues to pursue to obstruct family reunion by preventing Eritrean youths from returning voluntarily to their country;

Deeply disturbed by the growing reports of thousands of innocent Eritrean civilians missing in Ethiopia, and recently from the occupied areas, whose whereabouts remain unknown after being taken from their homes and workplaces by the regime's security authorities;

Deploring the wanton destruction of public, commercial and private premises, including churches, mosques, holy shrines and historical monuments and artefacts, and the looting of property that the TPLF regime has carried out and continues to perpetrate in the occupied areas, and especially prior to pulling out from sovereign Eritrean towns and cities in an act of deliberate State vandalism and in contravention of the provisions of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities that it signed on 18 June 2000 in Algiers;

Noting that the TPLF regime continues to plant new landmines in the occupied areas, in violation of operative paragraph 8 of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities as well as United Nations Security Council resolution 1320 (2000) on the deployment of the peacekeeping force;

Outraged by the groundless accusations that the TPLF regime has levelled against Eritrea claiming that thousands of its citizens are languishing in "concentration and labour camps in Eritrea" — preposterous accusations which are meant to cover up its gross violation of human rights, to absolve itself from its obligation of receiving its own nationals and to fabricate a pretext for continuing its war of invasion;

Noting with regret that lukewarm international reaction has encouraged the TPLF regime to perpetrate acts of ethnic cleansing and gross violation of human rights with impunity for the past two years;

1. Calls on the international community, and in particular the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, to ensure the protection of the human rights of Eritreans held hostage in the occupied areas in accordance with the Geneva Conventions, international law and paragraph 1 of United Nations Security Council resolution 1320 (2000). In this regard, the National Assembly calls for the immediate dispatch and placement of permanent human rights observer groups from ICRC, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and other bodies to monitor the situation and ensure the provision of relief assistance to these victims;

2. Calls on the international community to put pressure on Ethiopia to release Eritrean civilian detainees in Dediesa and other concentration camps in accordance with the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities and the provisions of the Geneva Conventions;

3. Calls upon the United Nations to expedite the deployment of the peacekeeping force so as to eliminate, as early as possible, the gross violation of human rights perpetrated by the TPLF regime in the occupied areas;

4. Urges the United Nations to put pressure on the TPLF regime to demine the landmines it has planted and to stop planting new landmines in the occupied areas in violation of operative paragraph 8 of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities and paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution 1320 (2000);

5. Recalling its resolution of 26 June 1998, which stressed that Eritrea would not react in a spirit of vindictiveness and reciprocity in the face of the TPLF's cruel policy of ethnic cleansing, the National Assembly underlines Ethiopia's national and international obligations to receive its own nationals and resolves to ensure that the repatriation of Ethiopians to their country will be conducted, as in the past, with safety and dignity and through the involvement of the International Committee of the Red Cross.